

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

In Reply to Application Number



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CENAB-OP-RMN (US Army, APG/C4ISR) 2007-07528 and

Maryland Department of the Environment Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Case Number 07-NT-0336 PN-07-85

Comment Period: December 21, 2007 to February 7, 2008

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT RESPONSE FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW, AND TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE, LOCATION, AND TIME OF A PUBLIC HEARING. AT THIS TIME, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT AUTHORIZATIONS WILL BE ISSUED.

The Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) for the construction of a research and development complex to support the U.S. Army mission. The project is proposed as part of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Law of 2005. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has also received an application for this proposed complex for the alteration of any floocplain, waterway, or nontidal wetlands in Maryland pursuant to the Environment Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9 (Nontidal Wetlands Protection Act) and Title 5, Subtitle 5 (Waterway Construction Act).

APPLICANT: U.S Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground ATTN: Colonel Jeffrey S. Weissman Deputy Installation Commander 2001 Aberdeen Boulevard

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005-5001

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION:

Wednesday January 23, 2008 at the Aberdeen Senior Center, 7 Franklin Street, Aberdeen, Maryland.

Displays will be available at 6 pm. Representatives of the project team and the agencies listed above will be available to discuss points of interest. A formal presentation will begin at 7 pm that will include a description of the proposed project plans. The presentation will be followed by public testimony, which will be recorded. Written comments will also be accepted. Time limits of 3 minutes per speaker may be set, depending upon turnout, to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to voice their views.

The hearing will provide an opportunity for the public to present oral and/or written comments. All persons and organizations that have an interest in this project are urged to participate.

Anyone who is hearing-impaired who wishes to attend this meeting should notify Mr. Con Romeo of the Corps. Non-English speaking persons who wish to attend should also notify Mr. Romeo. All requests for an oral, sign language, or non-English language interpreter must be received by January 8, 2008. To the extent possible and feasible, an interpreter will be provided.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The work is proposed in nontidal wetlands and streams that drain to Romney Creek, a tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. The site is located on the property of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Harford County, Maryland

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The U.S. Army, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in accordance with the realignment Recommendations of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, as implemented by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended, proposes to impact waters of the United States and waters of the State, including impacts to no more than 14.62 acres of nontidal wetlands (8.0 acres forested, 2.91 acres scrub-shrub and 3.71 acres emergent), 17.54 acres of wetlands buffers (not Federally regulated), 1.32 acres of streams, and 1.89 acres of floodplains (not Federally regulated) for the phased construction of office buildings, construction of roads, parking areas, and other infrastructure, associated with the relocation of the Army's Communications Electronics Life Cycle Management Command (CE-LCMC) and CERDEC (Communications-Electronics Research Development and Engineering Center) from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, where these commands will be integrated into Team C4ISR (Command, Control, Computers and Communications, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) and be re-located to a new site at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland. The U.S. Congress passed the BRAC Commission's findings into law, which requires Fort Monmouth to be closed, and its C4ISR mission moved to APG, no later than September 15, 2011. The purpose of the project is to construct a research and development complex for the U.S. Army organization known as C4ISR in accordance with BRAC Commission, as implemented by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended.

The applicant must obtain any state or local permits that may be required. The applicant is required to obtain a Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The USACE hereby requests that the MDE, Water Management Administration review the proposed discharges for compliance with the applicable water quality standards. The applicant has certified in their application that the proposed activity complies with, and will be conducted in a manner consistent with, the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program.

A preliminary review of this application indicates the following:

The proposed work would be in compliance with Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations."

Initial Section 106 consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act indicate that impacts to listed properties and landmarks are not likely.

The proposed work will not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended.

As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify these preliminary determinations.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal, will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal are considered, among these are conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; cultural values; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; floodplain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water and air quality; hazardous, toxic, and

radioactive substances; threatened and endangered species; regional geology; aesthetics; energy needs; food and fiber production; safety; environmental justice; cumulative impacts; and the general needs and welfare of the public.

The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of the Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The USACE and the MDE are soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, and all other interested parties in order to evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE and MDE to determine whether to issue, issue with conditions, or deny a permit or license for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on all of the resources listed above. Comments will be used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on this project must be received on or before February 7, 2008.

All work is proposed to be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan(s). If you have any questions concerning this matter or would like to submit written comments please contact:

Mr. Jon Romeo ATTN: CENAB-OP-RMN P.O. Box 1715 Baltimore, MD 21203

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Baltimore District

Phone: 410-962-6079

E-mail: jon.romeo@usace.army.mil

Questions or comments pertaining to the non-tidal waters in Maryland and the associated permits for this project should be directed to:

Maryland Department of the Environment Water Management Administration Mr. David Walbeck 1800 Washington Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21230 Phone: (410) 537-3831

When commenting by e-mail, your comments must be contained in the body of your message; please do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message. You may view additional information related to this project on the USACE web page at http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/public_notices.htm. A link to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Base Realignment and Closure Actions at Aberdeen Proving Ground is http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/nepa_eis_docs.htm.

After the public comment period ends on February 7, 2008, the USACE will consider all comments received.

It is requested that you communicate the above information concerning the proposed work to any persons known to be interested who did not receive a copy of this notice.

Vance G. Hobbs, Chief Maryland Section Northern

V. A. Halk

WETLAND AND WETLAND BUFFER IMPACTS BY SHEET (IN SQUARE FEET)

	Impact from		Impact from Utilities	Total Wetland		Wetland Buffer
Sheet	Roadways	& Buildings	& Other Sources	Impact		Impact
1	7,799	The state of the s	802	8,601		20,195
2	6,934			6,934		16,314
3	14,679		547	15,226		26,546
4	15,447	6,277	9,621	31,345		91,279
5		9,939	28,412	38,351		29,215
6	24,142	31,637	31,816	87,595		67,879
7	46,429			. 46,429		47,535
8	19,231		551	19,782		22,775
9			62,758	62,758	jul .	84,865
10	36,547		1,232	37,779		45,334
11	13,864		10,410	24,274		30,801
12	20,287		20,246	40,533		59,177
13	22,542		2,926	25,468		7,440
14	7,302	1,531	760	9,593		17,211
15			15,686	15,686		
16	11,688			11,688		
17			52,931	52,931		50,384
18		7,474		7,474		19,165
19		45,680	24,754	70,434		41,109
20	2,930	2,071		5,001		21,151
21	3,941	6,150	8,161	18,252		24,435
22				0		32,903
23				0		3,140
24	230			230		3,765
25	118		358	476		1,419
26				0		0
Totals:	254,110		271,971	636,840		764,037
Totals in Acres	5.83	2.54	6.24	14.62		17.54

Wetland Impact Square Feet 636840.00
Wetland Impact Acres 14.62

WETLAND AND WETLAND BUFFER IMPACTS BY PHASE (IN SQUARE FEET)

	Impact from	Impact from Parking	Impact from Utilities	Total Wetland		Vetland Buffer
	Roadways	& Buildings	& Other Sources	Impact		Impact
Infrastructure	22,826	0	1,707	24,533		51,925
Acres	0.52	0.00	0.04	0.56		1.19
					7	
C4ISR Phase 1	53,394	109,228	102,764	265,386		346,590
Acres	1.23	2.51	2.36	6.09		7.96
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C4ISR Phase 2	177,890	1,531	167,500	346,921		365,522
Acres	4.08	0.04	3.85	7.96		8.39
Totals:	254,110	110,759	271,971	636,840		764,037
Totals in Acres	5.83	2.54	6.24	14.62		17.54

Total Wetland Impact Square Feet 636,840
Total Wetland Impact Acres 14.62

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER SOURCES OF WETLAND IMPACTS

An area dedicated to accomplish outdoor mission related requirements that is not on a paved surface but needs to support mobile equipment and vehicles on a temporary basis.

Hard Stand:

An area dedicated to accomplish outdoor mission related requirements that is on a paved surface.

Satellite Antennas:

An area dedicated to the location of Antennas that requires access for maintenance and repair.

Work required adjacent to existing developed areas that impacts wetlands to meet mission and ATFP requirements.





















































